

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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The Nation's Humiliation

The Republican leaders of the Senate can not escape responsibility for one of the greatest humiliations ever brought upon our nation. The Republicans have control of the Senate; they have spent more time on reservations than the Peace conference spent on the treaty; they have denied the nation the privilege of concluding peace when the other nations exchanged ratifications; they have shamed us before the world; they have disappointed the republics called into existence by our example and have put this, the greatest of republics, in the position of being unable to make a treaty. They have carried their hostility to the President so far as to deny to our executive the honor, fairly won, of being the first president of the League of Nations. Up to this time the Republicans must bear the blame—let not the Democrats share it by delaying ratification.

W. J. BRYAN.

SUGGESTION FOR CARTOON

Edwards and Smith carrying a beer barrel between them, marked "the ark of the Covenant," with motley crowd following, each one with a bottle, marching under a banner "San Francisco or Bust." Under picture, write "As the Wets Would Have It."

BRAVE DEMOCRATS

The Democrats of the House took a long step in advance when by a vote of 106 to 17 they declared against universal compulsory military training. It was a brave and timely act. They have written one plank in the next Democratic platform. Next!

The candidates, both Republican and Democratic, seem a little timid about expressing themselves on prohibition. If they are so badly frightened by the vanquished wets they had better cultivate the victorious drys.

LET THE MAJORITY RULE

We, the undersigned members of the United States Senate, believing in the right of the majority to rule and being unwilling to make it more difficult to conclude peace than to declare war, hereby agree to use our votes (by casting them or withholding them) as to enable a majority of the elected members (49 of the 96) to record a two-thirds vote in favor of the ratification of the treaty with Germany with such reservations as such majority, voting for ratification, agree upon, provided that each of the undersigned shall be free to vote his convictions on each reservation and at liberty to urge any desired change in the League of Nations after our nation is a member thereof. Such a course as is above outlined would hasten ratification and locate the responsibility for delay.

W. J. BRYAN.

Is It 1904 Over Again?

The World's bold effort to nominate Mr. Hoover in any old party recalls its activity in 1904. It picked out Mr. Parker as the candidate who could lead the party to victory. Of course, it knew that his financial backers were in reality J. Pierpont Morgan, August Belmont and Thomas F. Ryan—the men who in 1912 were mentioned by name and specifically excluded from the control of the convention by a resolution adopted by a vote of more than four to one. The representatives of the Parker organization made prodigal promises of campaign funds and by means of these promises secured enough delegates to give their candidate a majority of the convention, and this majority was soon swelled to the necessary two-thirds. It is not the purpose of this editorial to discuss the World's intimate connection with the Parker boom and its backers but rather to draw a warning from history. As soon as the convention was over, the National Committee was organized on a purely money basis. One of the most influential leaders in the party, after spending the day with the committee, wrote me expressing his disgust that money was the only thing talked about; no thought of principles or of the benefits which the people should receive from a Democratic victory—just money, money, money.

When the time came for the campaign contributions to roll in—they did not roll, and the financial burden of the campaign fell upon August Belmont and Thomas F. Ryan, who, it must be admitted, did their best to make good the promises made in securing the delegates. They informed the committee that the men from whom they expected to get contributions had refused to give and an investigation made some years afterwards showed that Belmont and Ryan had to bear almost the entire expense of the campaign. The World may be able to inform its readers about how much these two men contributed.

A few days before the election, Judge Parker learned from a friend that the financiers of Wall Street had met and agreed to throw their support to President Roosevelt, then a candidate

for re-election. To say that Judge Parker was astonished is stating the case very mildly. He was astounded to find that men who claimed to be Democrats and who had no personal, political or pecuniary reason for opposing Mr. Parker were going to join in making Mr. Roosevelt's majority as large as possible. The reason, of course, was that Wall Street financiers have no politics; their vote is entirely a matter of money—as much so as the vote of the man who sells his vote for a few dollars, only their price runs up into big figures and is measured by the advantage their business is to derive from the control of the government.

Judge Parker, unable to suppress his indignation, made a speech in New York, calling attention to the support that Wall Street was giving Mr. Roosevelt. I well remember the sensation Mr. Parker's speech caused. I was campaigning in Indiana at the time and met one of our speakers just after reading the morning paper. "Have you read Judge Parker's speech," said he. "Yes," I replied. "He brings a very strong indictment against Mr. Roosevelt." "It looks like we are not going to get any Wall Street funds," said the Democratic speaker. Not very long afterward, I met another prominent Democrat and practically the same dialogue ensued. Judge Parker's speech was pathetic but Democrats accepted it as notice that there had been some unexpected interruption in the flow of money from Wall Street to the Democratic Committee. Mr. Roosevelt at once replied to Judge Parker in very abrupt and offensive language. If Mr. Parker had been in position to challenge Mr. Roosevelt to have his committee join the Democratic Committee immediately in publishing the contributions received he could have silenced the Republican candidate, but the Democratic Committee was in no better position than the Republican Committee to show its books. That was before "publicity before the election" law went into effect. Election day came; all the so called Democratic papers were supporting the ticket; there was no division in the party; outwardly everything seemed harmonious. All the leaders were supporting the ticket, but among the voters there was the greatest unorganized protest ever known in American politics. Judge Parker's vote fell one million and a quarter below the Democratic vote of 1900 and it was also one million and a quarter below the Democratic vote of 1908, and the fall was nation wide—no section escaped the disastrous blight of that year.

A little while after the election I met Senator Daniels at the home of Congressman Jones. Senator Daniels, it will be remembered, was one of the leaders of the Parker movement. Senator Daniels was idolized by the South and admired by the party of the nation. He exerted more influence in behalf of Judge Parker than any other delegate in the convention. During the conversation at the table Senator Daniels said to me. "MR. BRYAN, MANY OF THOSE WHO

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